

ASHEVILLE TRANSIT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes

Public Works Building Room A109

July 8, 2009 4:30-6:30

Attending:

Commission Members: Josh O'Conner, Dave Erb, Ryan Pickens, J Neal Jackson

Absent: Karen Austin, Hanna Raskin, Andrew Goldberg

Staff: Mariate Echeverry, Edna Johnson, Janet GeorgeMurr, Martha McGlohon, Kelly Whitlock

Community members: Tom Herman, Paul Van Heden, Sharon Brien

4:37pm: Ryan opened the meeting.

Agenda Amendments: Add – Announcement from Ryan

Explanation of Public Comment Standards and Opportunities:

- Ryan – welcomed the public and read the standards of procedures regarding public comment.

June 10, 2009 Minutes Review:

- Motion to have June minutes approved. Josh motioned to pass minutes as presented and all TC approved.

Welcome Public – Introductions and Pre-Meeting Public Comment

- Ryan welcomed the public with an introduction of each member of Transit Commission, staff and public. Public comments were not given at this time.

Welcoming Dave Erb to the Transit Commission

- Ryan welcomed Dave and read the resolution signed by Council; and was given the new member packet information. It was emphasized to Dave to review the packet, to complete the bio and to read the by-laws and guidelines.
- Josh recommended placing the TC new member packet on the City website. Janet will follow through with the request.

Transit Advertising Policies

Martha McGlohon, Assistant City Attorney and Kelly Whitlock, Associate City Attorney, presented to TC two possible ad policies. Before the presentation, Martha stated at the last presentation to the TC in Feb 2009, there was not a quorum; and one commission member (Josh O'Conner) rescued himself due to conflict of interest, since he worked for Buncombe County. Josh announced that after reviewing the ad policy there is not a conflict of interest. Martha also stated that since all of the TC members were not present, tonight (7/8/09), if the TC members would like to wait until all of the TC members were present; and to reorient the new TC member. The members voted not to delay any further and to continue with the presentation tonight, since TC members received the two ad policies with advanced notice. Kelly Whitlock began her presentation by briefly giving a history of how the proposal for ad policy began when Council was receiving complaints regarding an inappropriate ad about ESPN "got balls" which brought the issue to the forefront.

After the City attorneys presentation, the TC members extensively discussed the ad policy choices and voted unanimously to adopt the existing Transit Ad Policy, but to include definitions of commercial and government.

Update from Transit Commission Members Work and New Business:

- Alt-Transit Confab Summary – Josh, Dave and Tom Herman mentioned that the attendance was good with a meet and greet social event.
- Training for new TC member – packet was review prior to July TC meeting and will be posted on City website under Transit Commission.
- Senate Bill 151 – Mariate mentioned that the bill is not dead and support from different agencies. A letter/resolution was submitted to Council from TC to support Senate Bill 151. Paul Van Heden mentioned that the bill was delayed to a sponsor's heart condition. Josh and J. Neal suggested phone calls/letter supporting the bill.

Update from Staff:

- **Transit Master Plan** – Mariate mentioned that the TMP has not moved as fast as she thought. Last Sunday, bus routes (w/o passengers) were taken for time measurements and forwarded to the consultants. HDR (consultants) are preparing a draft this week, which will be reviewed and present to Transit Master Plan Steering Committee. If TMPSC feels comfortable with the draft it will go forward with public comment; then to Council. TC requested to review draft prior to public comment.
- **Budget and Revenue Update** – approved as presented.
- **Status of Inter-City Routes** – Finalized proposal to NCDOT by 7/10/09: 2 proposals: Mars Hill to Hendersonville. Weaverville not willing to participate and unwilling to pay this year's contribution, Per Weaverville officials, the route does not fulfill the people's needs and the Trailblazer will be more useful. Hendersonville has been asked if they would participate; and a number of comments were received from Black Mountain and Swannanoa regarding the inter-city project. J Neal asked how many riders on the Weaverville route. Mariate mentioned 26,000 riders per year. Ryan asked about the distribution of riders – Mariate mentioned that riders are along the route lines on Weaverville Hwy. Josh stated that he is happy with the method of obtaining comments.
- **Consolidation Study** - Mariate mentioned that COA, Buncombe and Henderson Counties and NCDOT are proposing a feasible study to consolidate the three systems along with HDR consultants. NCDOT to pay for the study estimated completion date of January 2010. From COA perspective to consolidate and coordinate a system by fare integration. Josh asked about citizen involvement. Mariate stated that a Transportation Steering Committee involving 3 from Buncombe County, 3 from Henderson County, 3 from COA, Ken Putnam, one TC member and one citizen. Ryan asked if Madison County could be included. Tom Herman mentioned that Madison County is not part of an urbanized area. Mariate mentioned that originally Henderson County was not included in the study a year ago, but is now on the table to include Henderson Co. and to share transfers. After a short discussion, TC members nominated Dave Erb to serve on the Transportation Steering Committee. Ryan made the motion, J. Neal seconds and all in favor. Josh asked if there would be another Transit Master Plan Steering Committee before public comments. Mariate stated that TC and TMPSC would review the draft at the same time. After the public reviews the draft proposal, TC and TMPSC will review and meet again, then to Council. Mariate also mentioned this would also depend on the public comments, which not many have been received, at this time.

Meeting Summary:

Announcements:

- Ryan Pickens will resign immediately from Co-Chair of TC to run for Mayor in Mars Hill. He indicated that he would be happy to attend August and September TC meetings as an unofficial member. He will send a resignation email to Maggie Burleson and Janet by 7/10/09, and a request to begin proceedings to find another TC member. In addition, on 12/31/09 Karen and Andrew will also be retiring from TC. Josh made a motion that any further appointments made in mid-term to automatically include the number of months to the end of that term plus one year. Dave seconds and all in favor.
- Josh will prepare a letter for Council to have either a co-chair or return to chair person for TC. Josh is all in favor of a Vice-Chair. Hanna greatly transitioned into a co-chair w/o a problem.

Public Comments: Solicitation for request from public to be incorporate into next month's meeting agenda:

- Paul Van Heden announced a new bus social network of qik.com, which is a video upload.
- Paul Van Heden invites TC members to Friends of Asheville Transit Social Club after TC meetings at 7:30pm at Thirsty Monks. Last week 12 people attended the event. Cecil Bothwell might be at tonight's meeting.
- Sharon Brien – strongly suggested having better notices of the TC meetings other than on the Transit Center bulletin board and website. Sharon indicated that if she did not attend the Rider 101 class, she would not have known about the TC meetings being held once a month.
- Sharon also mentioned that there is not a bus service after 7pm at Wal-Mart on Bleachery Rd and that she had to go Swannanoa River Road, where there is not an ADA compliant bus stop and is very dangerous for anyone especially someone in a wheelchair. In addition, that the bus stop should serve Wal-Mart until 10 or 11pm. Mariate mentioned that TMP is trying to address old routes and are looking into replicated the old routes. Sharon suggested having signs at the Wal-Mart of schedule of bus routes. Josh stated that ADA is an issue that has been very seriously addressed and the plan is to have all shelters ADA compliant. Ryan mentioned that Hanna is trying to get the information out to the riders. Sharon recommended using the bus ads announcing TC meetings. Mariate announced that all new shelters will be ADA compliant and will bring the existing shelters to ADA compliant as well.
- Tom Herman of NCDOT commented that COA with the stimulus monies is trying to make Asheville more pedestrian friendly

Agenda Items for August:

- Advertising TC meeting on buses
- Alt-Confab Summary on possible initiative
- Election of Vice Chair or Co-Chair
- Appointment to TC
- Meeting notices
- Retreat-Ryan recommend tabling this item until all TC members are replaced in December. Perhaps in March 2010.

Agenda Item for September:

- Commission only marketing person (Mariate)
- Adjourned: 6:30pm.

Route Ridership-FY 2010-July, 2009

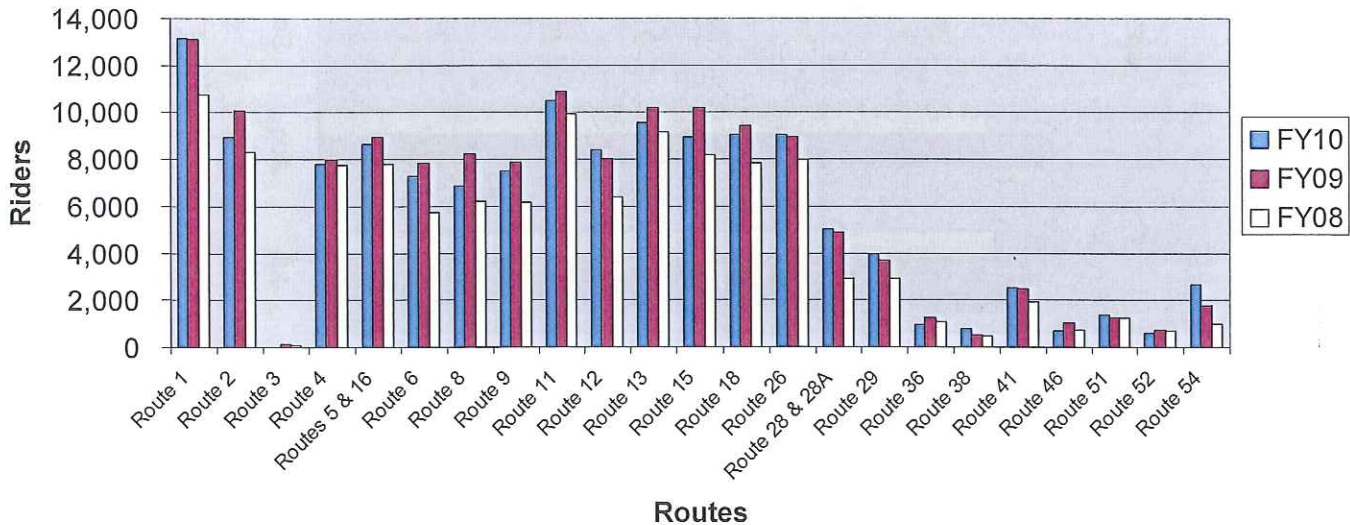
Current Month

Route	This Year	Last Year	Change	Delta
1	13,128	13,089	39	0%
2	8,953	10,077	(1,124)	-11%
3	0	109	(109)	-100%
4	7,801	7,980	(179)	-2%
5 & 16	8,655	8,943	(288)	-3%
6	7,271	7,836	(565)	-7%
8	6,849	8,210	(1,361)	-17%
9	7,492	7,882	(390)	-5%
11	10,492	10,878	(386)	-4%
12	8,407	8,012	395	5%
13	9,544	10,195	(651)	-6%
15	8,932	10,171	(1,239)	-12%
18	9,044	9,406	(362)	-4%
26	9,029	8,940	89	1%
28/28A	5,007	4,872	135	3%
29	3,935	3,672	263	7%
36	958	1,230	(272)	-22%
38	780	496	284	57%
41	2,547	2,466	81	3%
46	665	1,047	(382)	-36%
51	1,370	1,239	131	11%
52	581	737	(156)	-21%
54	2,665	1,765	900	51%
	134105			

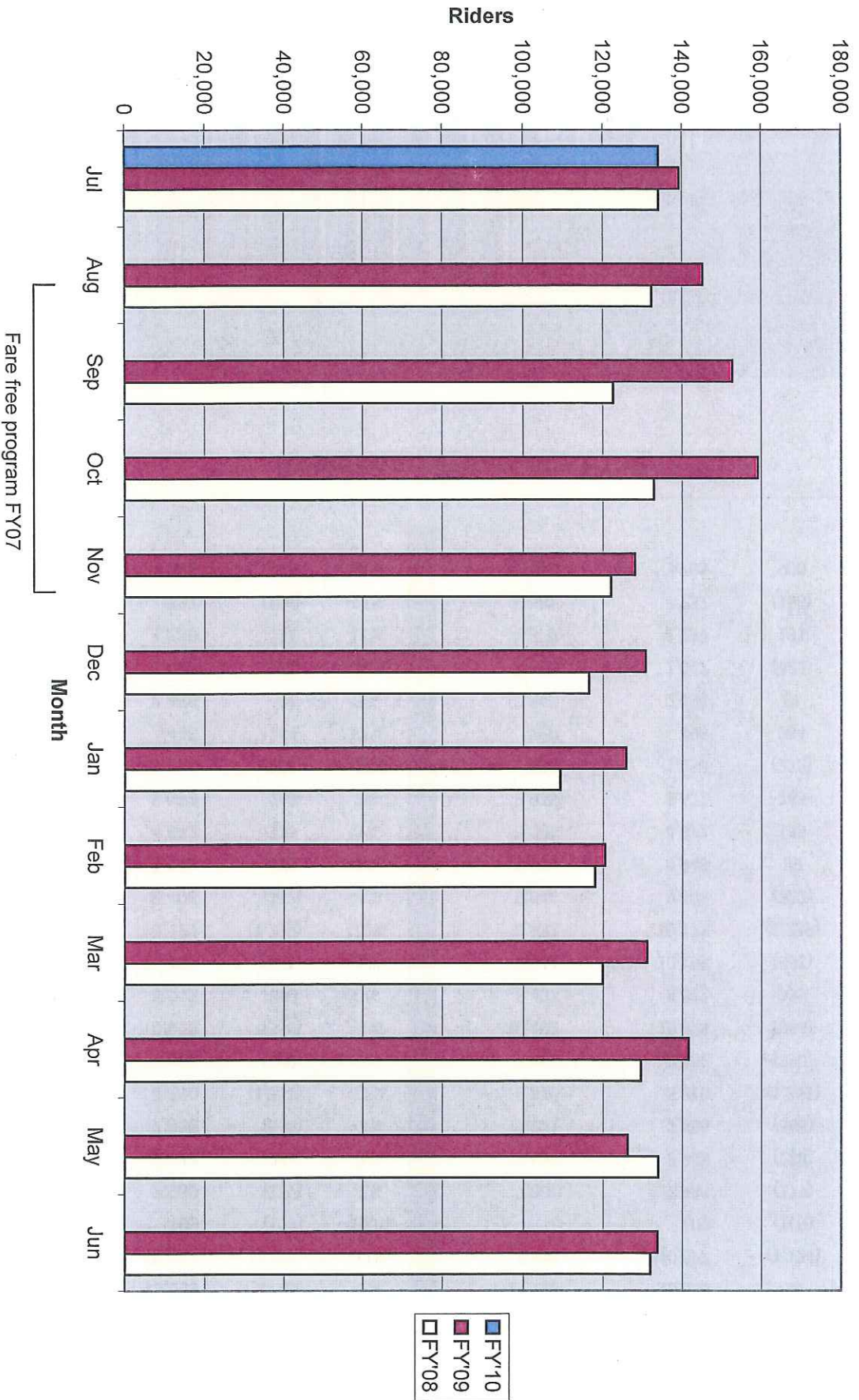
Fiscal Year to Date

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Route comparison July FY10



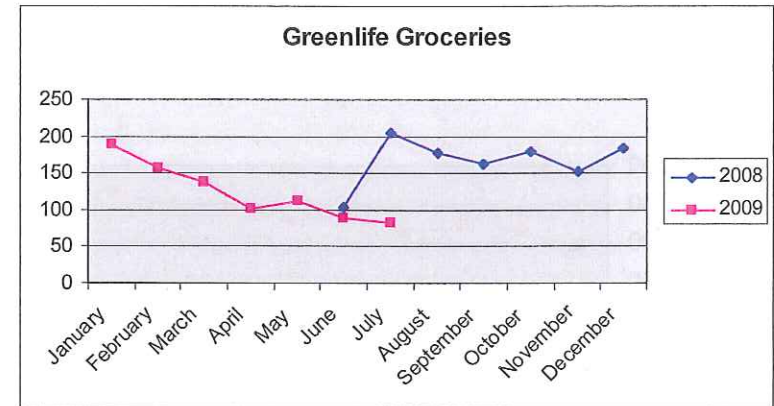
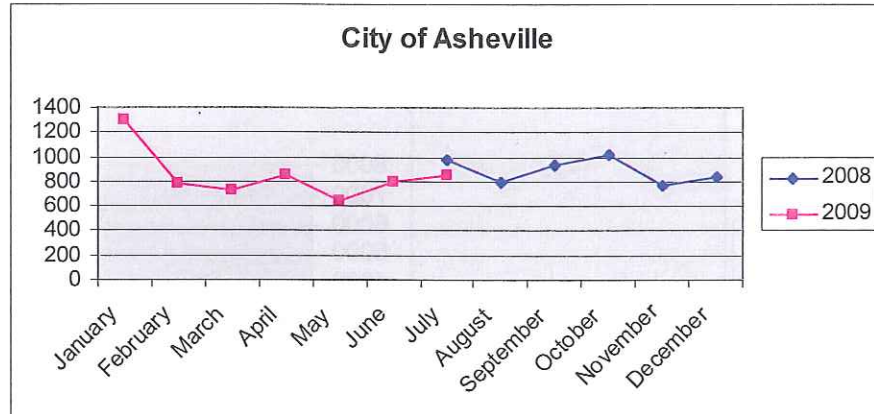
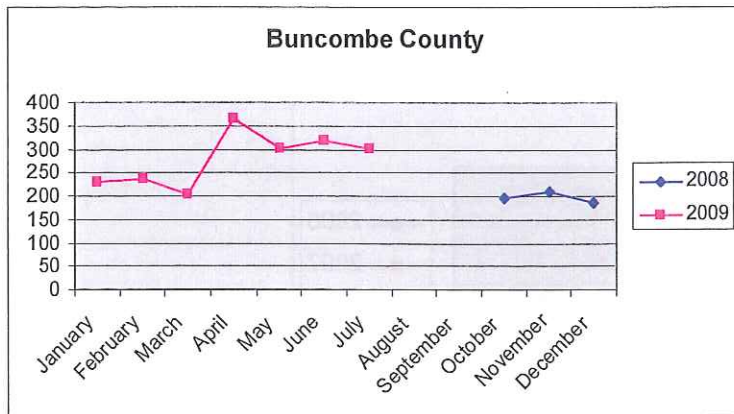
Ridership Comparison

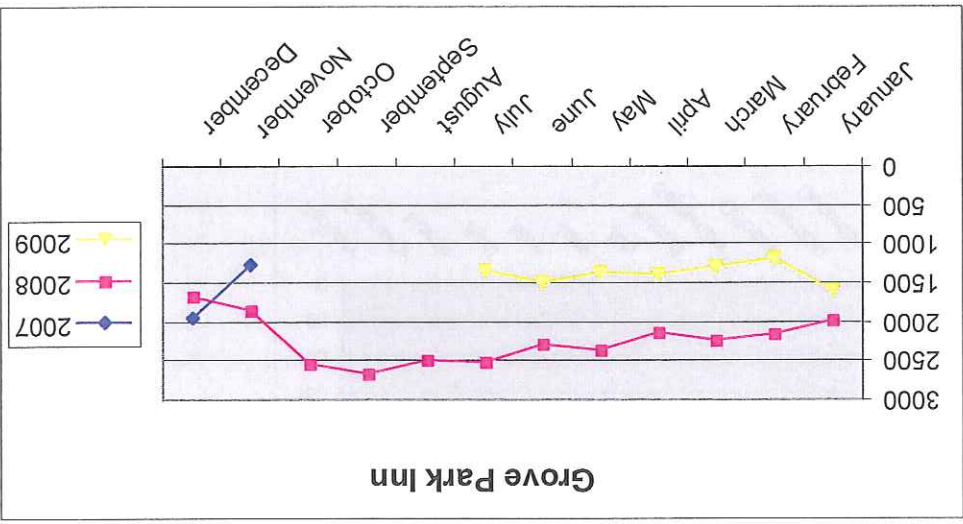


<i>Buncombe County</i>		
	2008	2009
January		231
February		236
March		204
April		366
May		302
June		319
July		301
August		
September		
October	195	
November	209	
December	187	
Year Totals	591	1959
Overall Totals	2550	4509

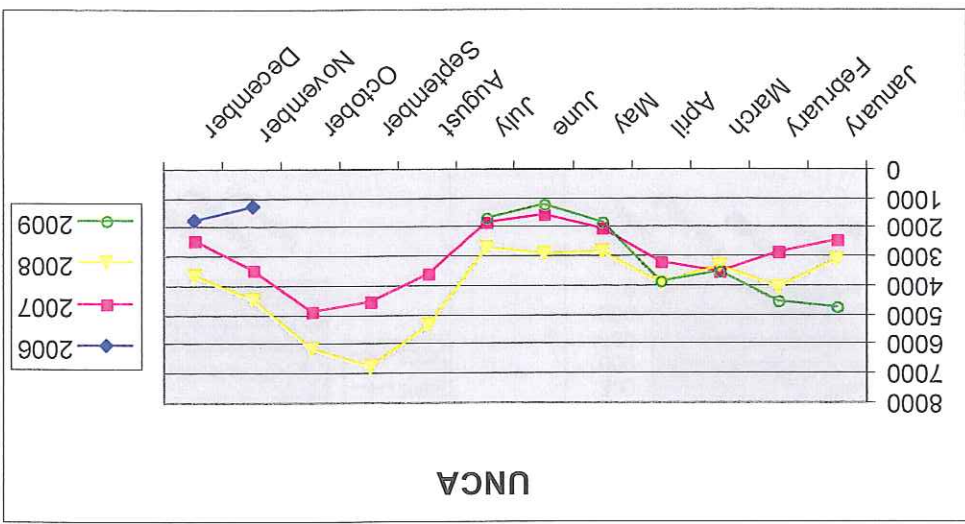
<i>City of Asheville</i>		
	2008	2009
January		1306
February		779
March		733
April		850
May		643
June		793
July	976	857
August	797	
September	940	
October	1018	
November	770	
December	835	
Year Totals	5336	5961
Overall Totals	11297	17258

<i>Greenlife</i>		
	2008	2009
January		188
February		156
March		138
April		101
May		113
June	103	90
July	205	82
August	177	
September	164	
October	181	
November	152	
December	185	
Year Totals	1167	868
Overall Totals	2035	2903





Grove Park Inn			
	2007	2008	2009
January	1592	1198	
February	2156	1305	
March	2225	1386	
April	2128	1366	
May	2356	1509	
June	2298	1509	
July	2520	1345	
August	2494		
September	2659		
October	2552		
November	1863		
December	1969	1676	
Year Totals	3237	26920	9701
Overall Totals	30157	57077	66778



UNCA			
	2006	2007	2008
January	2433	3140	4777
February	2860	4041	4562
March	3536	3346	3554
April	3163	3906	3891
May	2010	2870	1803
June	1529	2882	1253
July	1816	2692	1677
August	3611	5336	
September	4512	6755	
October	4881	6169	
November	1285	4444	
December	1754	3649	
Year Totals	3039	36246	21517
Overall Totals	110032		